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ACROSS THE SNOWS OF ASGARD, KING CONAN RIDES TOWARD THE STRONGHOLD OF HIS SON-IN-LAW, KING DERYCK. CONAN HAS ABDICATED THE THRONE OF AQUILONIA AND NAMED HIS SON, PRINCE CONN, AS REGENT. ALL HE WANTS NOW IS TO SEE HIS DAUGHTER AND HIS GRANDSON. HE IS UNAWARE THAT HE HAS BEEN FOLLOWED BY A SCHEMER WHO PLANS AN ACT OF...

TREACHERY

CROM'S BONES, SCIPIO! IF WE COULD HAVE INTERCEPTED CONAN SOONER, WE COULD HAVE KILLED HIM BEFORE HE REACHED DERYCK'S CASTLE!

CONAN IS A HARD MAN TO KILL, VORIC. YOU OUGHT TO KNOW THAT NO, WE WAIT -- THE ODDS WILL IMPROVE.

CONAN IS JUST IN TIME TO JOIN THE THANES OF ASGARD IN THEIR YEARLY WINTER HUNT. *THAT'S* WHEN WE STRIKE.

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YOU KNOW, SCIPIO, I WANTED TO FLAY YOU ALIVE FOR THE THINGS YOU'VE GOTTEN ME INTO BEFORE. BUT I HAVE TO ADMIT, I LIKE YOUR PLAN. I CAN SEE WHY KING YEZDIGERD RELIES ON YOU.

TRUE, VORIC! THE EMPEROR OF TURAN KNOWS HE CAN TRUST ME TO SET THE STAGE FOR CONAN'S FALL. THIS TIME WE'LL GIVE THE EMPEROR SOMETHING EXTRA. WE'LL NOT ONLY KILL CONAN, BUT THE ENTIRE ROYAL FAMILY OF ASGARD, AS WELL.

AND JUST AS SCIPIO PREDICTED, CONAN JOINS THE AESIR THE FOLLOWING DAY ON THEIR GREAT WINTER HUNT...

MOST OF THE THANES OF ASGARD KNEW DERYCK'S FATHER. WE'RE GLAD THAT YOU AND OUR KING HAVE BECOME FRIENDS, KING CONAN.

CONAN RIDES ALONGSIDE ME. IT'S FITTING FOR KINGS TO RIDE ABREAST.

I'M NO LONGER A KING, DERYCK. TREAT ME LIKE YOU WOULD ANY OTHER MAN AT ARMS.

LET'S BE ON OUR WAY OR ALL THE BEAR WILL BE ASLEEP FOR THE WINTER.

FATHER, SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR GRANDSON, YOUNG ROLF.

I WOULDN'T LEAVE WITHOUT DOING SO!

CONAN, MEET FREIA, ROLF'S NURSE.

FREIA IS MY MOTHER, CONAN.

YOU HAVE A FINE DAUGHTER, KING CONAN. MY SON IS FORTUNATE TO HAVE HER FOR HIS WIFE. AS FOR YOU...

...I SEE WHERE MY-- *OUR* GRANDSON GOT HIS EYES.

I COULDN'T BE ANY PROUDER TO HAVE ANY MAN AS MY SON-IN-LAW, DERYCK AND I KNOW THAT WE CAN'T CHANGE THE PAST. THAT'S HOW WE'VE BECOME FRIENDS.

NO SORCERER'S SPELL CAN BRING YOUR HUSBAND BACK, FREIA. DO YOU WISH REVENGE ON ME?

MY HUSBAND LIVES ON THROUGH THE CHILD DERYCK AND RADEGUND NAMED AFTER HIM. BUT WHEN THE BOY GETS OLDER, YOU SHALL TELL HIM HOW YOU KILLED HIS OTHER GRANDFATHER IN SINGLE COMBAT.

WHEN THE TIME COMES, I WILL. IN THE MEANTIME, LET US BE FRIENDS FOR OUR GRANDSON'S SAKE.

FOR THE SAKE OF YOUNG ROLF, YOU CAN COUNT ON MY FRIENDSHIP, CONAN.

WE'LL RIDE EAST TOWARD THE HYPERBOREAN FRONTIER. MY SCOUTS SAW BEAR THERE TWO DAYS AGO.

AYE, I KNOW THAT AREA, DERYCK. BUT WE'LL HAVE TO BE ON OUR GUARD AGAINST HYPERBOREAN RAIDERS.

THEN LET THEM COME. WE'RE MORE THAN A MATCH FOR ANY BAND OF HYPERBOREANS.

DON'T BE IN SUCH A HURRY TO START ANOTHER WAR, DERYCK. WE NEVER SUCCEEDED IN CONQUERING ALL OF HYPERBOREA. THEIR NORTHERN CLANS CAN STILL PUT WARRIORS IN THE FIELD.

THEY DON'T FRIGHTEN ME. IT'S ANOTHER WAR WITH THE VANIR THAT I WORRY ABOUT.

I FOUGHT IN ONE OF YOUR WARS WITH THE VANIR. REMIND ME TO TELL YOU ABOUT THE FROST GIANT'S DAUGHTER ONE DAY.

YOU KNOW, YOUR MOTHER IS A FINE WOMAN, BERYCK.

NOT FAR AWAY, WATCHING FROM THE HILLS...

IT'S TOO SOON TO ATTACK. LET THE HUNTING PARTY MOVE OUT BEYOND A DAY'S RIDE FROM THE CASTLE.

AYE!

BY THE TIME WE STRIKE, THEY'LL BE TOO FAR OUT TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT IT.

AYE, AND THEY'LL COME AFTER US THEN. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO LEADING THEM ON A CHASE.

AH, WINTER IN ASGARD...!

STRANGE TALK, COMING FROM AN OLD WARRIOR LIKE YOU, CONAN.

WHEN YOU GROW OLDER, YOU LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY.

BARGAINING WITH CROM FOR MORE TIME?

NO ONE BARGAINS WITH CROM, DERYCK.

I'M NOT READY TO DIE, THOUGH.

AT DERYCK'S STRONGHOLD, SCIPIO ATTEMPTS A RUSE...

WHO ARE YOU, WHO SAYS HE WANTS TO SEE KING CONAN?

I'M A COURIER FROM TARANTIA. LOOK AT MY UNIFORM! I'M AN ENSIGN IN THE AQUILONIAN ARMY!

AN UNNOTICED GUEST SIDLES UP BEHIND THE DISTRACTED SENTRY...

WHO SENT YOU, ENSIGN?

I HAVE NEWS FROM KING CONAN'S COURT.

LET ME ENTER.

SSST!

URRGHH...

TO ARMS, MEN! WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

OUTSIDE...

KILL EVERY MAN AT ARMS! BUT REMEMBER WE WANT THE CHILD ALIVE!

DEATH TO THE AESIR!

CIMMERIANS! DON'T LET THEM REACH THE KEEP! THEY'RE AFTER THE PRINCE!

OUT OF THE WAY, DOG!

WE WATCHED AND WE WAITED, AESIR, UNTIL YOUR BEST WARRIORS WOULD BE OFF HUNTING!

THAT'S ENOUGH FOR YOU, OLD MAN!

LET'S GET INSIDE THE KEEP! WE CAN KILL THE REST OF THEM AFTER WE HAVE THE BOY!

LET'S FIND THE CHILD!

THE BEST WAY TO TORTURE CONAN IS TO KIDNAP HIS GRANDCHILD. THAT'S MY REVENGE ON HIM FOR HUMILIATING ME IN THE PAST.

WHERE DO WE FIND THE BRAT, SCIPIO?

LISTEN FOR ITS CRIES, VORIC.

AYE, I HEAR SOMETHING...

IT'S COMING FROM DOWN THAT CORRIDOR...

WAHHAAAAHHHH...

THERE-- WHAT DID I TELL YOU, VORIC?

RADEGUND! THEY'RE INSIDE THE KEEP! HELP ME BOLT THE DOOR!

THAT WON'T DO YOU ANY GOOD, WENCH! GIVE ME THE BRAT BEFORE I KNOCK YOUR BRAINS OUT!

FREIA, THIS WAY-- QUICK!

THEY'RE AFTER THE BABY, RADEGUND!

I'LL HAVE THE BOY! AND I'LL KILL YOU BOTH!

YMIR'S CURSE ON THESE CIMMERIAN RENEGADES! CONAN'S VENGEANCE ON THEM!

NOW, HAGAN, YOU'VE GOT TO GET TO YOUR FEET, BUSTED SKULL OR NO BUSTED SKULL...UGH...

I CAN'T LET MY FRIENDS DOWN, KING DERYCK, RADEGUND...CONAN...

...AND YOUNG PRINCE ROLF!

GIVE UP THE CHILD!

RADEGUND! TAKE THE CHILD!

CRAK!

THE BRAT IS MINE NOW!

NO! NO!

WHAT ABOUT THESE WENCHES, VORIC?

MAIL, ROLF, PRINCE OF ASGARD! HA, HA, HA! YOUR GRANDFATHER WILL BE COMING FOR YOU SOON. THEN, BY CROM AND YMIR, WE'LL HAVE SOME SURPRISES FOR HIM!

JUST MAKE SURE CONAN AND DERYCK CAN STILL RECOGNIZE WHAT'S LEFT OF THEM, WHEN THEY'VE COME AFTER US. I WANT THEM IN A BLIND RAGE.

AYE!

NO!

STAY DOWN, RADEGUND!

HAGAN!

AYE, MY QUEEN! I AM HERE!

I THOUGHT THEY KILLED YOU BY NOW, NAGAN.

THEY TRIED

THEY'VE TAKEN HOLT!

THEY'VE LEAVE MY BONES IN THE SNOW BEFORE THEY'VE GET AWAY WITH HURTING THE PRINCE!

BUTCHERS!

WE WON'T WAIT FOR ANY COMMAND

AVE MY QUEEN

ALIVE

IN ACROSS THE SHADOWS OF ASGARD

TARANTIA — PRINCE CONN FINDS A FEW MOMENTS OF ESCAPE FROM HIS DUTIES AS REGENT. IN THE

THIS WAY, O PRINCE. COME SEE FOR YOURSELF.

HE DID *WHAT?*

HE FELL INTO THE MOAT, MY PRINCE. I SAW IT WITH MY OWN EYES.

I'D TELL YOU HIS NAME, BUT I CAN'T EVEN PRONOUNCE IT.

THERE HE IS, MY PRINCE. I KNOW HE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE MUCH, BUT I SWEAR I TOLD YOU THE TRUTH.

"ARZNARBODONUS IS THE NAME, MAGIC'S THE GAME!

WHAT?--I'M TOLD YOU FELL FROM THE SKY, WHATEVER YOUR NAME IS.

A SLIGHT MISCALCULATION. I HAVEN'T PRACTICED TELEPORTATION FOR A CENTURY OR TWO.

NAME'S *ARZNARBODONUS*, EQUAL STRESS ON EACH SYLLABLE. JUST TAKES A LITTLE PRACTICE, BUT YOU'LL GET IT SOON ENOUGH.

"NOW, LET'S SEE... OH, YES--*TELEPORTATION*, THAT'S WHAT WE WERE TALKING ABOUT. IT MUST HAVE BEEN OFF ON THE COORDINATES."

"I WAS TRYING TO REACH YOUR THRONE ROOM. LUCKILY, YOUR GUARDS FISHED ME OUT OF YOUR MOAT..

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?

IT'S... IT'S... *ARZ-NAR-BO-DON-US*"... ERRK! I'M FREEZING!

WHAT?

LET'S TAKE HIM TO THE PRINCE.

I'D BETTER CHANGE OUT OF THESE DAMP, SMELLY THINGS

WELL, I CAN'T PRONOUNCE HIS NAME AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH HIM, EITHER.

I WAS AFRAID OF THAT. BUT DON'T LOOK AT ME. I'M JUST A CAPTAIN OF THE GUARD.

AH, THAT'S BETTER NOW. WE'RE NEW IN WHAT WAS IN THE OLD DAYS A PRIVILEGED AREA, AND AREN'T WE LUCKY!

I'VE BEEN MADE TO FORGET BUT NEVER QUITE LIKE THIS.

A-HA! THERE'S A CHANGE OF CLOTHES!

HE NEVER STOPS TALKING TO HIMSELF!

AN WHO

WHAT IS THIS?

THAT'S WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO FIND OUT

...ATA THE WITCH TOLD ME THAT I WOULD ... TWO MEN FROM THE PAST. ONE WOULD BE A FRIEND AND THE OTHER A DEADLY ENEMY.

YOU HAVE MANY ENEMIES, PRINCE CONN.

THE DEADLIEST ARE THE ONES YOU DON'T KNOW ABOUT.

CONN, THE ... FROM THE UNDERWORLD ... HAVE ARRIVED. THAT WHAT WE CAME TO TELL YOU

WHAT IS THIS... THIS — WHATEVER HE IS - DOES HE HAVE A NAME?

BE CAREFUL, CONN. YOU CAN'T TELL WHICH PART OF DELATA'S PROPHECY HE MIGHT BE

WE'LL CALL HIM "ARZ", IT'S AS MUCH OF HIS NAME AS I CAN PRONOUNCE.

"ARZ", WELL THAT'S BETTER THAN SOME THINGS I'VE BEEN CALLED

ACROSS THE FROZEN WASTES OF ASGARD...

THERE — DERYCK FRESH PRINTS!

CONAN — LOOK!

HYPERBOREANS! IT'S A WAR PARTY!

WE'RE OUT-NUMBERED

SHOULD WE LET THEM PASS?

THERE'S NOTHIN' TO BE GAINED BY FIGHTING HERE AND NOW THERE'LL BE OTHER DAYS FOR THAT!

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

DERYCK- MOVE!

I'M WITH YOU!

USE YOUR SPEAR!

IT'LL TAKE MORE THAN ONE SHAFT TO STOP THAT BRUTE

YARGGHH!

WE WERE LUCKY!

AYE, THIS ONE WILL MAKE A NICE RUG FOR ROLF'S QUARTERS

KING DERYCK— LOOK!

IF THOSE HYPERBOREANS HAVE GOTTEN BEHIND US

DERYCK! DERYCK!

RADEGUND! WHAT IS IT? WHAT'S HAPPENED?

THEY'VE TAKEN HIM! THEY'VE KIDNAPED OUR SON!

WHO? WHO WOULD DARE?

A SHORT TIME LATER..

YOUR MOTHER WAS BADLY HURT BUT SHE LIVES. AND HADAN WAS TOO BADLY HURT TO COME WITH ME

WE'LL DIVIDE THE PARTY AND TRY TO INTERCEPT THEIR ESCAPE ROUTE. I LEAD ONE AND CONAN WILL LEAD THE OTHER

WATCH OUT FOR THE HYPERBOREANS, CONAN. WE'RE VERY NEAR THE GREAT GLACIER

AH!

11T COURT IN TARANTIA...

YOU MAY BE ASSURED THAT THE PRINCE REGENT IS INVESTED WITH THE POWER TO MAKE TREATIES AND ALLIANCES

THEY DON'T LOOK IMPRESSED, PUBLIUS.

PLEASE MY NOBLE PRINCE, WE MEAN NO OFFENSE

IT'S JUST THAT WE HAD IMAGINED THAT WE WOULD BE DEALING FACE TO FACE WITH YOUR FATHER.

LET ME ASSURE YOU THAT KING VESPUCIUS ONLY WISHES TO ESTABLISH ETERNAL PEACE AND UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN FRIENDS

TRUE ENOUGH, OUR EMPEROR LONGS TO KNOW YOU AND YOUR PEOPLE BETTER

AYE, THAT WE MAY EXCHANGE ART AND COMMERCE AND OUT OF OUR FRIENDSHIP BANISH STRIFE.

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

THAT A VERY GOOD QUESTION. WHAT AM I DOING HERE?

LOOK!

HAVE TO SIT DOWN AND THINK ABOUT THAT ONE.

OH, YES NOW IT'S COMING BACK TO ME

GET UP, OLD MAN! DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?

I'LL HAVE HIM THROWN OUT OF HERE CONN

YES I'VE HEARD ABOUT ENOUGH FROM YOU.

UHH!

SEE HERE CONN OLD [illegible] ALWAYS PROPOSES A TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP BEFORE HE SETS OUT TO DESTROY HIS NEW FRIENDS. ASK ANYONE IN IRANISTAN

WHY DON'T YOU - EH, GENTLEMEN, FOR LACK OF A BETTER WORD, TELL THE PRINCE WHAT YOUR EMPEROR REALLY WANTS.

NO, WAIT, PUBLIUS

COME ON SPEAK! OR BEFORE I TURN YOU INTO SOMETHING MORE CONSISTENT WITH YOUR TRUE SELVES

LIKE VIPERS!

SPEAK!

YEZDIGERD WANTS BLOOD!

CONQUEST!

THAT'S A LITTLE MORE LIKE IT GO ON, GO ON

YEZDIGERD INTENDS TO CONQUER THE HYBORIAN KINGDOMS.

AYE THAT IS WHY HE LET CONAN'S WAR CONTINUE WITHOUT INTERFERENCE

IN THE END HE KNEW THAT IT WOULD BE EASIER TO DESTROY ONE GREAT POWER AND FAR MORE REWARDING

[illegible] THE KING OF TRUTH [illegible]

AY I'M AFRAID IT [illegible]

GO ON KEEP TALKIN', YOU'LL FEEL MUCH BETTER IF YOU [illegible]

AQUILONIA CAN EXPECT CONQUEST IN LAVEMENT AND DEATH AT YEZDIGERD'S HANDS

WHAT MANNER OF MAGIC IS THIS, ARZEK? WHAT IS THE PRICE?

THE PRICE THAT YOU TAKE HEREAFTER ONLY IF A MAN [illegible] MANY WARNINGS

[illegible] WITH BLACK MAGIC [illegible] THERE'S ANOTHER WAY THAT I INTEND TO MAKE THE [illegible] FIGHT HIMSELF

ALL RIGHT, YOU THREE — BACK TO YOUR USUAL [illegible] I'LL LITTLE [illegible] AT THIS TIME [illegible]

WE HAVE LISTENED CAREFULLY TO YOUR WORDS GO AND TELL YOUR EMPEROR WE ARE PREPARED TO MEET HIM WITH THE SAME SPIRIT.

[illegible]

AY [illegible] I THINK I

WATCH THIS, CONN OL' BOY

I M WATCHING

OH, BOYS, GIVE OL' YEZ MY LOVE.

DID YOU HEAR SOMETHING?

SOUNDED LIKE A FAMILIAR VOICE I D SWEAR.

COULDN'T BE HIM.

SEE? THERE'S NO ONE THERE

COULDN'T BE

STILL, I'M NOT CERTAIN.

OH, BE QUIET

CONN WHAT'S GOING ON?

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW

AH, THE LOVELY ILIA, EVEN MORE BEAUTIFUL THAN FUTURE LEGENDS MAINTAIN.

LIKE FLOWERS?

NOT ARTIFICIAL ONES.

ILIA, THIS AM?

HE PULLED THOSE FAKE FLOWERS OUT OF THE SLEEVE OF HIS ROBE. I SAW IT.

WHAT KIND OF MAGICIAN IS HE SUPPOSED TO BE?

THAT'S WHAT I'D LIKE TO KNOW.

ALONG THE GREAT GLACIER THAT DIVIDES ASGARD FROM NORTHERN HYPERBOREA...

FAREWELL SCIPIO, UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN FOR ONCE YOUR SCHEMES HAVE BORNE FRUIT CONAN WILL HAVE TO MEET MY PRICE IF HE WANTS TO SEE HIS GRANDSON AGAIN.

THEN BARGAIN WITH HIM QUICKLY, VORIC.

I'LL BE READY FOR HIM IF HE MAKES IT PAST YOU.

WHY DID YOU LET HIM LIVE, VORIC?

I HAVE MY GOOD DAYS AND MY BAD DAYS.

AYE, THEY WERE QUIET WEREN'T THEY?

QUIET ENOUGH TO HAVE US TRAPPED.

THEN WE'LL TAKE IT WHEN YOU'RE DEAD.

CRUMANDMITKA

LATER..

THIS IS WHERE THE TRAIL ENDS. THEY DISPOSED THEIR WEAPON BUT THERE'S NO SIGN OF A STRUGGLE CONAN

I KNOW I'VE SEEN THAT WAR CLUB BEFORE. IT'S NOT LIKE VOLMIC TO SURRENDER WITHOUT A FIGHT UNLESS...

UNLESS THEY WERE BADLY OUTNUMBERED

AYE

YOUR MAJESTY, A LARGE HYPERBOREAN WAR PARTY HEADED BACK ACROSS THE GLACIER

THERE'S A VILLAGE ON THE OTHER SIDE, DERYCK

TAKE THE WORD TO EVERY AVAILABLE STRONGHOLD. I WANT AN ARMY ASSEMBLED HERE. IF THEY'VE HURT MY SON, I'LL SLAUGHTER EVERY HYPERBOREAN ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH

WE CAN'T WAIT THAT LONG, DERYCK. I'M GOING IN TO BARGAIN WITH THEM IF I'M NOT BACK WITH ROLF TOMORROW, YOU KNOW WHAT TO DO

IT'S SUICIDE CONAN THEY'LL KILL YOU AND MY SON

I'LL TAKE THAT CHANCE

A RIDER IN THE NIGHT IS APPROACHED

"HORSEMAN APPROACHING! IT'S A CIMMERIAN BY THE LOOK OF HIM.

THAT'S FAR ENOUGH, CIMMERIAN

TAKE ME TO YOUR CHIEFTAIN

WHAT DO YOU WANT, KING CONAN?

SO YOU KNOW WHO I AM. THEN YOU KNOW WHY I'VE COME.

I WANT THE CHILD! NAME YOUR PRICE

EVEN YOU CANNOT COME LIT WITH *THAT MUCH* GOLD

WHAT ABOUT THE CIMMERIANS WE CAPTURED?

WHAT ABOUT THEM?

THIS DOG TOLD US ABOUT YOUR GRANDSON, CONAN HE SAID YOU'D TRY TO BARGAIN FOR HIM

MAKE A DEAL WITH HIM, KING CONAN

THEY TRIED TO BARGAIN WITH US, TOO

DO YOU WANT TO BARGAIN FOR THEIR LIVES, CONAN?

I CAME FOR MY GRANDSON. THESE MEN ARE TRAITORS DO WHAT YOU LIKE WITH THEM.

HA, HA, HA! WELL, CONAN, I KNOW THAT YOU AND THE BRAT WILL BE JOINING US SOON! *YOU CAN'T BARGAIN WITH THESE DEVILS*

MAKE ME AN OFFER, CONAN WHAT RANSOM ARE YOU WILLING TO PAY?

UNLESS I RIDE OUT OF HERE WITH THE BOY, MY SON-IN-LAW WILL BURN THIS CAMP TO THE GROUND AND SLAUGHTER YOU ALL

THE AESIR HAVE BEEN TRYING TO SLAUGHTER US FOR GENERATIONS

UNLESS YOU MAKE A BARGAIN WITH ME BEFORE I RUN OUT OF ARROWS, *I WILL THROW YOU TO THE BEARS*

SO HAVE THE CIMMERIANS

AND I'M RUNNING OUT OF AXES

WE CONQUERED HALF OF HYPERBOREA IN THE WARS GIVE ME THE BOY AND I'LL RETURN YOUR LANDS.

HOW DO WE KNOW WE CAN TRUST YOU?

YOU DON'T BUT IF YOU DON'T MAKE A DEAL WITH *ME*, MY SON-IN-LAW WON'T BE SO GENEROUS

I'LL NEED A LITTLE [illegible] AS MY FAITHFUL [illegible] BARGAIN

HA HA HA! A PLEDGE OF GOOD FAITH DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE SO EASY, CONAN?

YOU'RE GOING TO DIE HERE, BUT TELL ME, *HA HA HA!* IT'LL SAVE SCIPIO THE TROUBLE OF ASSASSINATING YOU!

WHAT KIND OF [illegible]?

WHATEVER I DEMAND

HA, HA, HA! A BLIND BARGAIN, CONAN IT'S NO BETTER THAN YOU DESERVE! HA, HA, HA!

UNTIL WE MEET IN ARALU .. HA HA, HA!

STATE YOUR PRICE!

YOU MIGHT FIND IT HIGH

VERY HIGH

THEN NAME IT

CUT OFF YOUR LEFT HAND AND GIVE IT TO ME

I WARNED YOU

FIRST, LET ME SEE MY GRANDSON.

BRING HIM CLOSER.

WAHAHAHA...

ARE YOU SATISFIED?

WE HAVE A BARGAIN

FIRST YOU'LL HAVE TO MAKE THAT PLEDGE OF GOOD FAITH

THAT'S CLOSE ENOUGH!

TAKE YOUR GRANDSON AND GO!" WHAT I SAW IN YOUR EYES WAS ENOUGH FOR ME!

I DON'T UNDERSTAND

YOU PEOPLE NEVER DO YOU NEVER REALIZE THAT EVEN HYPERBOREANS LOVE THEIR CHILDREN

NOW GO!

CROM AND MITRA..

HOLD YOUR MEN BACK, DERYCK! ROLF IS SAFE AND WITH ME!

WHAT HAPPENED?

I LOOKED INTO THE EYES OF AN ENEMY AND SAW MYSELF

AT PERYCK'S STRONGHOLD SEVERAL DAYS LATER

BE CAREFUL CONAN IF WHAT YORI SAID WAS TRUE SCIPIO MAY NOT BE THE ONLY ONE AT COURT PLOTTING AGAINST YOU

SCIPIO BETTER BE CAREFUL

I HOPE YOU'LL BE HAPPY AS QUEEN OF CORINTHIA IF YOU EVER NEED MY HELP, ALL YOU HAVE TO DO IS ASK

IN TARANTIA

CONN YOU MUSTN'T THINK THAT I'M NOT GRATEFUL FOR YOUR PROTECTION, BUT UNLESS I RETURN TO CORINTHIA AND TAKE THE THRONE MY PEOPLE WILL THINK I'M BEING HELD AGAINST MY WILL

YOU ARE FREE TO LEAVE WHENEVER YOU LIKE ILIA BUT I DON'T THINK YOU'LL WANT TO WITH AN ARMY OF MERCENARY KNIGHTS

WAS THERE... SOMETHING ELSE YOU WANTED TO SAY, CONN ?

UH I UH .

WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIM ? THE GIRL LOVES HIM HE LOVES HER

HE'S JUST NOT LIKE HIS FATHER

THEY ARE SMALL THINGS A WOMAN CAN'T ASK

FATHER IN ABOARD I FEAR THAT SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED .

AYE, OUT WITH IT, SCIPIO! LET'S HAVE THE TRUTH!

WHAT.?

THE TRUTH!

VORIC BETRAYED YOU BEFORE HE DIED! DID YOU PLAN THE KIDNAPING OF MY GRANDSON? SPEAK UP!

YOUR MAJESTY.

SPEAK PLAIN OR WE'LL GET THE TRUTH OUT OF YOU IN THE DUNGEON!

FATHER WHAT IS THIS?

STAY WHERE YOU ARE, CONN!

LET SCIPIO EXPLAIN

YOUR MA-E-TY... I MEAN, YOUR HIGHNESS, I ASSURE YOU

NEVER WILL GET THE FLOOR PLAN OF THIS INFERNAL PALACE RIGHT. I TAKE A WRONG TURN AND WIND UP WALKING THROUGH A WALL

WHAT IN CROM'S NAME?

LET'S SEE. THERE WAS SOMETHING I HAD TO TELL YOU... OH, YES - THERE'S A TRAITOR AT COURT. THAT'S IT

WHAT DO YOU EXPECT FROM ME, A MAGIC SPELL TO POINT HIM OUT? *THERE HE IS!*

SCIPIO, WHO'D HAVE THOUGHT IT?

OH WELL, I SUPPOSE I'LL HAVE TO GIVE A VULGAR DEMONSTRATION OF ARCANE POWER.

ALL RIGHT, SCIPIO TEST ME FOR SOME TRUTH I KNOW YOU DON'T HAVE MUCH EXPERIENCE WITH, IT WILL BE BETTER USED ON IT

WHO IS YOUR FATHER?

KING YEZDIGERD III OF TURAN!

I'M NOT SURPRISED.

AND WHAT DOES YEZDIGERD WANT?

HA HA TO CRUSH AQUILONIA AND ITS EMPIRE!

CONN WHO IS THIS THIS?

FATHER, THIS IS ARZ HE'S ... WELL *HE'S ARZ.*

GUARDS, STOP HIM!

CORIO, WHAT'S THE MATTER?

GET AWAY FROM HIM QUICK! ZENOBIA HE'S A TRAITOR!

CONAN

AGH!

GET DOWN, ZENOBIA!

YET GA RETURN FOR THEM.

CONAN... CONAN... YOU CAME BACK. I NEVER DARED TO HOPE THAT YOU WOULD!

I THOUGHT YOU SAID "GOOD BYE."

BETWEEN US THERE ARE NO "GOOD BYES".

LATER

AND IT'S TIME YOU LISTENED

I BELIEVE ZELATA'S PROPHECY HAS BEEN FULFILLED.

A.I.

YEZDIGERD BELIEVES HE RULES BY DIVINE RIGHT

FOLLOWERS.

RESOURCEFUL AS WELL AS INTELLIGENT.

YOU HAVE A DANGEROUS ENEMY

AND IT'LL STOP AT NOTHING

IN A WORD -- YES.

"EVEN NOW, YEZDIGERD IS ASSEMBLING HIS ARMIES, BUT HE NEEDS TIME AND HE LACKS THE HELP OF A GREAT MAGE TO GIVE HIM AN ADVANTAGE.

"HE MAY SEEM ARROGANT, BUT HE IS A SHREWD AND RUTHLESS LEADER."

CONAN IS LITTLE MORE THAN A BARBARIAN. HE CANNOT RESIST THE WILL OF TARIM.

ON THE DAY WHEN KING YEZDIGERD'S EMISSARIES ARE EXPECTED TO ARRIVE IN TARANTIA, CONAN ASSEMBLES HIS COUNSELORS AND ALLIES FROM THROUGHOUT HIS EMPIRE TO PRESENT A UNITED FRONT...

CONN, YOU KNOW I DISLIKE GIVING YOU ORDERS, BUT THIS TIME IT'S IMPORTANT. I ALWAYS GAVE YOU CREDIT FOR HAVING COURAGE— *UNTIL NOW!*

SO MARRY ILIA, IF SHE'LL HAVE YOU. I WANT MORE GRANDCHILDREN.

CONN ALREADY FOUND HIS COURAGE, KING CONAN. YOU'LL HAVE MORE GRANDCHILDREN IF THE GODS ARE KIND.

WELL, ARZ, AS A MAN WHO'S SPENT TIME IN YEZDIGERD'S DUNGEON, THERE'S PROBABLY A LOT YOU CAN TELL US ABOUT HIM.

THAT SHALL BE MY PLEASURE, KING CONAN. YOU HAVE A DESTINY TO FULFILL AND I'LL DO MY PART TO SEE THAT YOU DO.

YOUR MAJESTY, THE EMISSARIES FROM THE EMPIRE OF TURAN HAVE ARRIVED.

AH, KING CONAN, GREETINGS AND FELICITATIONS FROM MY NOBLE EMPEROR, KING YEZDIGERD.

PUBLIUS, OUR THANKS FOR YOUR KINDNESS. WE HAVE GIFTS FOR KING CONAN AND HIS FAMILY.

KING CONAN, WE HUMBLY SUBMIT THE TREATY OF PEACE AND FRIENDSHIP THAT KING YEZDIGERD HAS PROPOSED FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION.

YEZDIGERD ASSURES US THAT HE WILL RECIPROCATE OUR RESPECT, TRUST AND AFFECTION.

THEN KING YEZDIGERD CAN REST ASSURED THAT WE WILL MEET HIM IN EXACTLY THE SAME SPIRIT OF... FRIENDSHIP.

PEACE, YES.

"KNOW YE, O PRINCE, THAT KING CONAN EMBARKED UPON THE DANGEROUS PERIOD OF HIS REIGN WITH HIS EYES OPEN AND HIS SWORD ARM READY."

FROM THE NEMEDIAN CHRONICLES.

NEXT: ISSUE #50!

NIGHT WINDS

KING CONAN

℅ MARVEL COMICS GROUP
387 Park Avenue South
New York, New York 10016

PAT REDDING
EDITOR

Attention correspondents: if you don't want your full address printed, please be sure to tell us so!

Dear Editors,

Is Don Kraar here to stay as writer for CONAN THE KING? Issue #48 was marvelous. The story just wouldn't stop getting better. First the tug-o-war over the pit of wild dogs was the work of a genius. I liked that it went on for a few pages too. It makes those tug-o-wars on the Battle of the Network Superstars look like child's play. It is good to see that Conan as king can be both intelligent and merciful. Some guys who are kings just abuse their power and don't even bother to think of the greater good they might be able to do if they thought about it.

I also liked the way Mike Docherty drew this issue. In the first panel Conan and his men come charging towards us and we get ready for another exciting tale about the Cimmerian King. In the last panel Conn is riding away from us on his horse going to destinations unknown. It was an excellent framing device. It is this kind of attention to small details that makes Mike an exciting penciler. Would you agree?

I have read a few of the Robert E. Howard books and I really think that Howard would like Mike's drawings of Conan. I thought the flashback pages (32 and 33) were handled quite well especially the artwork from an old SAVAGE SWORD OF CONAN. Not much more to say except Crom be with you.

L. Visliset
Lexington, KY

Sorry, L.V., but Don Kraar retires after CTK #49, and James C. Owsley takes over with #50.

Dear Dog Brothers,

Give me a break, will ya? I just finished reading CONAN THE KING #47 and you guys have got to be joking. First off, the famed Cimmerian would never let Aquilonia's capital go broke because every true Conanite knows that Aquilonia did nothing but prosper under Conan's rule. Second, Zenobia loved Conan so much (and vice versa) that she would never have talked to him that way. Finally the king would never have talked to Conn and Radegund the way he did because Conan loved both his son and daughter as much as he loved his wife. Do you see what I'm saying, guys?

Richard B. Jones
Cincinnati, OH

We hear you, Richard. Conan does have a lot of love for his wife and children, but at times his old barbarian streak comes to the surface. As William Shakespeare once said, "You've got to be cruel to be kind." Or, was that Nick Lowe?

Dear Cimmerians,

Sometimes CONAN THE KING gets a bit confusing. Tell me if I have it right so far . . .

Conan has engaged in a long bloody war to avenge the deaths of several of his subjects, but their kinsfolk curse the name of Conan. This hatred goes on despite the fact that Conan has subdued Nemedia, Zingara, Corinthia (whose Queen Ilia just might wed Conn), Argos, Ophir, Koth and Hyperborea. And now all these conquests have emptied out the once vast treasury.

Turan is still in the middle of a destructive civil war. And what has become of the border kingdoms? Besides all this fighting I recall somewhere that Zenobia is rather upset with Conan the King. Is she ever to forgive her king?

This is how I remember things. Have I got it down okay?

Scott Ridge
Lantana, FL

Everything seems in order to us, Scott. Queen Zenobia may one day forgive Conan, but, as you know, Queens can be a rather temperamental lot.

Dear Horse Riders,

Conan is King! No matter what Voric says in issue #48! Conan sure showed him. You know that if Voric had tugged Conan in that evil pit of wolves, Voric would have shown no mercy. That is why Conan is King.

I don't mind paying a dollar fifty for CONAN THE KING because if you think about it, it is one of the best deals going in comics today. It's forty-eight pages long so the stories are twice the length of a story in a regular comic. And it has Conan. I mean, the New Universe comics cost a dollar twenty-five and they don't even have Conan in them, right? So until the King of Comics (Conan) shows up in the New universe make mine Marvel.

Hal Ratner
Washington, D.C.

Fear not, Hal, Conan will never show up in the New Universe. (Well, never is a pretty strong word; let's say we doubt he'll ever show up in those comics.)

Dear Torch-Lighters,

CONAN THE KING issue #48 was superb. I read a lot of Conan, in fact I try to read all the Conan comics and magazines every month, even CONAN SAGA.

I don't really write a lot of letters to you folks at Marvel. But I really like Don Kraar's writing and I think his issues are the best. He makes Conan speak the way a former barbarian who is now a king speaks. I like the way he builds up the battles so that we as readers know the final confrontation is going to be worth the wait.

See you in the comics.

Ned Folk
Philadelphia, PA

Dear Conan People,

Okay, you wise guys, I got you. I want a No-Prize and I want it now. On page 23 of issue #48 we see King Yezdigerd wearing a red ring on the third finger of his left hand and then on page 24 there are rings on his second and fourth fingers. So there, I found a mistake, so send the No-Prize!

Steve McDevitt
Cleveland, OH

Steve, to get a No-Prize you must not only point out a mistake, you must also explain why it's not really a mistake. Also you must ask politely.

BULLPEN BULLETINS

QUOTE OF THE MONTH:

"Sometimes I lose sight of what or whom I'm fighting for."

—Punisher
PUNISHER'S WAR JOURNAL #1

ITEM: He's faster than a speeding bullet, more powerful than a locomotive, able to leap tall buildings in a single bound, and it's his birthday! Yes, we're talking about Superman, that strange visitor from another planet who's celebrating his fiftieth anniversary in comics. We want to take this opportunity to congratulate our friends at DC COMICS and to wish the granddaddy of all super heroes a happy fiftieth. After all, if it wasn't for the success of *Jerry Siegel's* and *Joe Shuster's* most famous creation it's unlikely that there ever would've been a Marvel Universe! To honor Jerry, Joe, and Superman, none other than *Stan* (the Man) *Lee* will be attending the International Superman Exposition June 18th in Cleveland, Ohio. May the battle for truth, justice, and the American way never, ever end!

ITEM: Dapper *Danny Fingeroth*, frazzled freelance writer about town, recently tied the knot with the ravishing *Roni Cooper* on May 28 in a small ceremony attended by family friends. Congratulations to the cavorting couple from Marvelites all over.

ITEM: And speaking of congrats, Charismatic *Chris Claremont*, mutant book writer supreme, is beaming with well-deserved pride because *FIRST FLIGHT* (his very first prose science-fiction novel) just went into its third printing. Talk about a multi-talented threat, not only is Cheerful Chris one of the best-selling comic book writers of all time, but he's also scoring high as a legitimate novelist. What's next for the ol' charismatic one? Broadway? Hollywood? Or, do you think it's possible to convince him to write a fill-in issue of HEATHCLIFF'S FUNHOUSE?!

PRO FILE: Gregory Wright

Managing Editor on: WEB OF FORTUNE (a choose your own adventure type Spider-Man book), MARVEL UNIVERSE Update, HERCULES Graphic Novel, The BEST OF MARVEL COMICS VOL. TWO and some top secret stuff I'm plotting to do. Also, I'm still working with the now beardless Mark Gruenwald on THE AVENGERS, SOLO AVENGERS, NICK FURY VS. SHIELD, and a Nick Fury/Wolverine graphic novel. Whew!

Marvel freelance credits (past): Colorist on so many single issues that I couldn't even begin to count. They include: SPIDER-MAN, X-FACTOR, FANTASTIC FOUR, CAPTAIN AMERICA, and some WHAT THE—? stories.

Marvel freelance credits (present): Colorist on MARVEL AGE, a couple of annuals, and anything else that needs to be done overnight. Writer on a few SOLO AVENGERS stories (Wonder Man— plug, plug), and a weird Nightmask story I'm doing with Kieron Dwyer.

My hobbies are: Making up obnoxious and sometimes vulgar comments to spring upon any and all unsuspecting (and suspecting) victims, seeing virtually every movie to hit the silver screen, music and cooking, getting unmercifully massacred at Scrabble.

The single work which I am most proud of is: I haven't done it yet, and when I do I will probably find something wrong with it.

My pet peeves are: Smokers, dopers, liars, cheaters, and racists. I have many more, but those are the top five.

My place of birth is: Er, ahem. Cleveland.

My greatest accomplishment outside of the comics field is: Fooling most of the people all of the time.

My oddest habit is: Eating weird food. Pepsi and Milk. Raw eggs. Baloney, cream cheese, cheese in a spray can, mustard and horseradish all rolled up.

If they were making a movie of my life, I'd like to see my part played by: Sean Penn.

The reason I got into comics was: Ha! Dan Chichester did not have enough money for pizza one night. The next day, he got a job at Marvel. He got me my job. It's all his fault. Blame him. Send hate mail to Epic Comics.

People who knew me in High School thought I was: Psychotic, strange, and wasting my time. But it was my time so . . .

My favorite performers are: DEVO, George Carlin, Robin Williams, Peter O'Toole, Marvin Gaye, James Brown, Blue Oyster Cult, Claude Bolling, Jean Pierre Rampal, and Andreas Vollenweider.

The last good book I read was: SOMETHING UNDER THE BED IS DROOLING.

The last good movie I saw was: Either ABOVE THE LAW, STARS AND BARS, or HOPE AND GLORY.

The biggest influences on my work include: Michael Curtiz, D.W. Griffith, Bill Watterson, David Lynch, Vittorio Storaro, Terry Jones, Don Martin, and a person or two who remain nameless, but they know who they are.

My greatest unfulfilled ambition in the comics field is: It would be to write a book that no one expects. Something really strange and nasty. The kind of thing that is loved or hated, but never ignored.

The worst part of my job is: Not being able to work with as many of my favorite writers and artists as I would like.

When nobody's looking I like to: Be a nice, sane, considerate kind of guy.

The one thing I really want the world to know about me is: I'm not neurotic. I border on psychotic and schizophrenic, with a touch of pyromania thrown in for fun.

HYPE*BOX

* **THE PUNISHER WAR JOURNAL #1** — At last — see the full origin of the Punisher as he battles kidnaping, drugs, and murder! And don't miss a special guest cameo by everyone's favorite lawyer Man Without Fear, Matt Murdock! "An Eye for an Eye: Sunday in the Park" is written and laid out by Carl Potts, with finished artwork by Jim Lee. $1.50.
* **THE SUB-MARINER Limited Series #1** — Get set for undersea adventure both past and present as we relive the history of the first super hero of the Marvel Universe — and uncover a few never-before-revealed secrets along the way! Written by Roy Thomas and penciled by Rich Buckler. Direct sales only. 32 pages. $1.25.
* **THE AVENGERS ANNUAL #17** — It's the wild wrap-up of the Evolutionary War! But who's going to fight it, considering that the Avengers have disbanded? Written by Walt Simonson, penciled by Mark Bright, and inked by Mike Gustovich. 64 pages. $1.75.
* **THE SPECTACULAR SPIDER-MAN ANNUAL #8** — The High Evolutionary wants the secret of cloning. But when he kidnaps the clone of Peter Parker's dead girlfriend, Gwen Stacy, he discovers that she's not a clone at all! And waiting in the wings: Who are . . . the Young Gods? Scripted by Gerry Conway and penciled by Mark Bagley. 64 pages. $1.75.
* **WOLVERINE #1** — Yes, it's the series you've been demanding! There's blood, sweat, and death in store when Wolverine leaps into savage solo action, doing what he does best! Will Southeast Asia ever be the same after Wolverine comes to town? Written by Chris Claremont, penciled by John Buscema, and inked by Al Williamson. 32 pages. Baxter paper. $1.50.
* **DOCTOR STRANGE #1** — Fresh from his recent stint in STRANGE TALES, Doc returns to the pages of his very own series! But there's no time for celebration when Doc faces the return of his greatest foe — the Dread Dormammu! And you won't believe your eyes when you see how Dormammu returns! "Love is the Spell and the Spell is Death" is written by Peter B. Gillis, penciled by Richard Case, and inked by Randy Emberlin. Direct sales only. $1.25.